



Driving the Illinois Economy



In this fourth annual report documenting the Department's accomplishments to the people of the state of Illinois, I again am proud to highlight the work results of thousands of employees and private contractors.

But first, I am retiring from state service at the end of 2002 after more than 34 years at IDOT and nearly 12 years as the Secretary. I would like to thank Governor Ryan, legislators, contractors and Department employees for working with me to modernize Illinois' transportation system, one of the busiest in the nation. We have met many challenges over the years in all modes of transportation. There are new challenges to face, including the retirement of more than 1,100 Department employees under the state's early retirement plan. However, we have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition into the new year.

Now back to the accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2002. Here are just a few of them:

- Improved more than 1,550 miles of road and 333 bridge projects statewide;
- Rehabilitated a portion of I-57 in Cook County to improve highway safety;
- Sustained high-speed rail development in the Chicago-St. Louis corridor;
- Supported 14 major transit and 38 major airport projects;
- Maintained a low traffic fatality rate on Illinois highways;
- Reduced deaths in construction work zones with the help of Department public service announcements featuring the children of highway workers; and
- Continued a major administrative program to improve Departmental operations through strategic initiatives.

The Department was able to develop many more multi-modal transportation projects through the Governor's Illinois FIRST program, which provides additional billions of dollars to all transportation modes from FY 2000 through FY 2004.

As partners with private industry, all levels of government, and citizens who use and pay for the system, we work hard to maintain and improve one of the nation's best transportation systems and to invest the taxpayers' money in the state's transportation infrastructure effectively and efficiently.

Thanks once again to all those in this state who have made me proud to have served as a leader in this important industry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Brown'.

Kirk Brown

Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation



I am honored Governor Blagojevich has chosen me to head the Illinois Department of Transportation at this critical time of transition and promise of new opportunities. This is a time of new beginnings for the state as a whole, and for our entire Department.

The Early Retirement Incentive and the states' precarious financial position has presented us with a new challenge, as more than 1,200 of our colleagues move on, and those that remain are faced with the positive legacy of the past and the challenges of rebuilding the capacity of the Department.

I credit my predecessor, Kirk Brown, who left a Department where professionalism is the cornerstone and challenges are looked upon as opportunities for improvements, not impediments to the future.

Perhaps the biggest challenge we face is funding. Increased funding for infrastructure improvements through Illinois FIRST will run out as the program comes to an end in Fiscal Year 2004, and we look to our federal partners to shoulder a greater burden. We will work with our Congressional delegation as new federal transportation funding programs are enacted so that Illinois is no longer a donor state, but instead sees a positive return on our investment to the Federal Highway Trust Fund. No bill that comes before Congress this session will be as important to the people of Illinois than the reauthorization of TEA-21, and we must work to improve Illinois' share of available federal transportation dollars.

I believe IDOT's success depends upon the relationships we have with the communities within which we serve. Diversity is a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and one of my priorities for the Department is to establish an Office of Business Diversity that will work to create mutually beneficial relationships with Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises(M/WBEs). The goal of this office will be to provide M/WBEs with equal access to business opportunities at IDOT, technical assistance and mentoring. It will serve as an arm of the Secretary's Office and will therefore have the executive support and resources needed to accomplish our priority of strengthening relationships in all of the communities we serve.

My goal, as Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation, is to make this the premier transportation department in America, and it's a goal that I believe is within reach.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Timothy W. Martin'.

Tim Martin

Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation